

5

housing 10 is changing in the direction where their housings are folded (S503: YES), the operation of the camera 20 stops (S504).

Further, when the first housing 17 is turned about the first rotary axis 30 and the angle formed by the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 becomes about 90° (S505: YES), the camera 21 starts and the picture being taken by the camera 21 is displayed in the display monitor 25 (S506). On the other hand, in case that the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 have been folded completely (S505: No), all the camera operations complete and the mobile terminal device returns to a usual waiting state.

In the step S506, in a state where the camera 21 starts and is operating, the angle formed by the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 is detected by the sensor 27 (S507). When the first housing 17 is turned about the second rotary axis 29 by the user thereby to become parallel to the second housing 10, and further the first housing 17 is turned about the first rotary axis 30, the change of the angle formed by the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 is detected (S508: YES), and the operation of the camera 21 stops (S509).

Further, when the sensor 27 detects that the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 turn about the first rotary axis 30 and they are folded by the angle formed by the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 (S510: No), all the camera operations complete, and the mobile terminal device returns to the usual waiting state.

On the other hand, when the sensor detects that the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 turn about the first rotary axis 30 and are unfolded (S510: YES), the camera 20 starts, and the picture taken by the camera 20 is displayed in the display monitor 25 (S511). Thereafter, the operation moves to the step S501, and the above steps are repeated.

As described above, according to the embodiment, by changing the positional relation between the first housing 17 and the second housing 10, it is possible to switch the operations of the camera 20 and the camera 21. For example, when the user uses the mobile terminal device in the state shown in FIG. 1 to take a picture of his face, in case that he suddenly wants to take a picture of scenery on the opposite side to the side on which his face exists, he only changes the state of the mobile terminal device to the state shown in FIG. 2. Then, the camera 21 starts, and he can start taking a picture of scenery on the opposite side to the side surface 19 by a simple operation.

On the other hand, to the contrary, even when he is taking a picture of the opposite surface to the side surface 19, he can start taking the front picture of the side surface 19 by only changing the state of the mobile terminal device to the state shown in FIG. 1.

In the state where the camera 20 or the camera 21 is operating, when the operation of folding the mobile terminal device is performed (the first housing 17 and the second housing 10 are turned about the first rotary axis 30 so as to come into contact with each other, the operation of the camera 20 or the camera 21 stops automatically. Therefore, it is not necessary to stop the camera operation by the key operation, so that the camera operation can be stopped simply.

As described above, the mobile terminal device according to the embodiment can switch the operation control of each camera on structure or stop its operation. Therefore, power consumption caused by the key operation can be eliminated. Further, since the key operation is not required, operation ability can improve and picture taking can be quickly performed.

According to the invention, it is possible to provide a mobile terminal device provided with plural image pick-up sections, wherein an operation of each image pick-up section can be controlled by a simple operation.

6

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile terminal device comprising:

a hinge portion;

a second housing formed nearly in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped;

a first housing formed nearly in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped and coupled to said second housing by said hinge portion foldably and so that said first housing is capable of turning in relation to the second housing in the direction orthogonal to the foldable direction;

a first image pick-up section provided for a surface opposed to said second housing in a state that the device is folded;

a second image pick-up section provided, in a state where said first and second housings are unfolded at an angle of about 90° and further the first housing turns at an angle of about 90° to the second housing, for a surface on the opposite side to the surface having said first image pick-up section, of said first and second housings; and

a position detecting section for detecting a positional relation between said first and second housings according to a change of the angle between said first and second housings;

wherein, in a state when said position detecting section detects that said first and second housing are initially unfolded at an angle of at least about 90°, an operation of said first image pick-up section is automatically started,

wherein, in a state where said first and second housings are unfolded and said first image pick-up section is operating, when said position detecting section detects that said first and second housings are changing in a direction to be folded to each other, an operation of said first image pick-up section is stopped.

2. The mobile terminal device according to claim 1,

wherein, in a state where said first and second housings are unfolded and said first image pick-up section is operating, when said position detecting section detects that the first housing is turned at angle of at least about 90° to said second housing, the operation of said first image pick-up section is stopped and an operation of said second image pick-up section is started.

3. The mobile terminal device according to claim 2,

wherein, in a state where said first and second housings are unfolded at the angle about 90°, the first housing is turned at an angle of about 90° to said second housing, and said second image pick-up section is operating, when said position detecting section detects that said first and second housings are changing in one of a direction to be unfolded and a direction to be folded, an operation of said second image pick-up section is stopped.

4. The mobile terminal device according to claim 2,

wherein, in a state where said first and second housings are unfolded at an angle of about 90°, said first housing is turned at an angle of about 90° to the second housing, and said second image pick-up section is operating, when said position detecting section detects that said first and second housings are changing in a direction to be unfolded, an operation of said second image pick-up section is stopped and the operation of said first image pick-up section is started.